

Business and Politics.

[*Wilmington Messenger*, October 21, 1898]

The Chamber of Commerce Declares Negro Domination

At the regular monthly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held Thursday, October 6th, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

“Be it resolved by the Chamber of Commerce, that the political situation in this city and county is a menace to the peace and order of the community, in which property has no protection and the life of the citizen no security; that the feeling of unrest and apprehension following upon an incompetent public service which while it exacts tribute in taxes offers no immunity from danger to the property or person of the citizen, is detrimental to every business interest, arrests enterprise, hampers commerce and repels capital which might otherwise find investment in our midst. That such commercial stagnation and social disorder are the logical outcome of a condition which finds the control of government in the hands of corrupt and incompetent men whose authority fails to inspire fear in the worst element of our population as it does to command the respect of our best citizens; that this lawless and wholly irresponsible element, fortified by the consciousness that the authorities are either impotent or unwilling to impose restraint upon them and protect life and property, convert liberty into license, perpetrate outrage on every hand, disturb the peace of the community and offer indignities to our white women which have culminated in instances of personal violence to them on our streets and in an attack on the virtue of the womanhood of our Southland by the negro editor of the infamous Daily Record.

“Resolved, That in view of these intolerable conditions, it is the sense of this meeting that it is the duty of every good citizen to exert his utmost influence and personal effort to effect results which will restore order, protect property, and give that security to our homes which obtains only in civilized communities.

“Resolved, That this Chamber is sensible that its province is commercial and not political, and the intention or desire to enter the sphere of politics is distinctly disclaimed, but the conditions confronting us and calling for solution are commercial and social, and not political; and as citizens and business men, with the one desire to promote the prosperity, peace and happiness of the community, we declare to the world that these blessings are not possible under government by the present political regime, whose existence and power are predicated on the blind adherence of the negro element of our population, which, taken as a whole, with some worthy exceptions, are under the most absolute bondage and domination of a few designing men of the white race, who, for selfish ends, play upon their prejudices to array them against order and good government.”

JAMES H. CHADBOURN, JR., Pres.,
COLONEL THOS. W. STRANGE,
COLONEL F. W. KERCHNER,
CAPTAIN W. R. KENAN,
CAPTAIN T. C. JAMES,
COLONEL WALKER TAYLOR,
EX-MAYOR, S. H. FISHBLATE,

JNO. L. CANTWELL, Secretary,
W. H. NORTHROP, JR.,
GABRIEL HOLMES,
H. C. McQUEEN,
C. C. COVINGTON,
J. H. BOATWRIGHT,
JOHN S. ARMSTRONG,

H. K. NASH,
N. JACOBI,
M. W. JACOBI,
GEORGE HARRISS,
GEORGE HARRISS, JR.,
SAMUEL NORTHROP,
W. H. NORTHROP,
THOS. G. BAGLEY,
R. W. HICKS,
P. B. MANNING,
P. PEARSALL,
WM. E. WORTH,
T. W. CLAWSON.

WILLIAM A. FRENCH,
WALTER L. PARSLEY,
J. ALLEN TAYLOR,
HUGH MacRAE,
F. H. STEDMAN,
F. L. HUGGINS,
JOHN K. WILLIAMS,
J. C. STEVENSON,
GEORGE ROUNDTREE,
R. N. SWEET,
J. B. MERCER
W. J. MARTIN